

CENTRE forward Keith Searle was battling to reach full fitness this week in preparation for Wycombe Wanderers F.A. Cup tie against Newport County on Saturday. Keith twisted ligaments in his right knee at Walthamstow.

He was at Farnham Park this week receiving treatment but he has had to pull out of an F.A. XI which plays Oxford University at Ifley Road this week.

Other injury news this week is that Dylan Evans is not 100 per cent and Tony Horseman has leg trouble. Evans was down in Wales yesterday (Monday) for a trial for the amateur team. Wanderers will be training on Thursday this week before the big game but, due to the ban on floodlighting, their proposed visit to Hayes tonight (Tuesday) has been postponed.

The Free Press has been asked to point out that Saturday's match is NOT all ticketed at the ground. Stand tickets were printed but this was merely for the convenience of the public. Any stand tickets returned from Newport, who were allocated 200, will be available from treasurer Roger Lee on Thursday night at Loakes Park. Overall, 1,000 stand tickets have been sold. Car parking facilities at the ground are limited on Saturday. All spaces are allocated for those with authorised car park tickets.

STRIKER Dylan Evans came into the side at Tony Horseman's expense and promptly doubled his goals for the season, scoring all four goals on Saturday to earn Wycombe Wanderers a valuable three points and the added bonus of £40 from Rothmans.

Evans, who had scored only three goals prior to this game, just couldn't put a foot wrong at Green Pond Lane. He was left unmarked too often by the Walthamstow Avenue defence — and really made the most of it.

None of Dylan's goals were spectacular and one of them was definitely lucky, but his performance on Saturday poses a real selection problem for manager Brian Lee. Should he plump for the experience of Tony Horseman, who after all, is the club's leading scorer, or should he go for the inform Evans. We shall see.

The problem may never arise, however. Keith Searle, Wycombe's centre forward fell with a bad twisted ligament in his right ankle and had to be stretchered off. After the match assistant manager John Reardon was optimistic of his chances for the Newport game, but if Keith is unfit, then both Evans and Horseman are likely to play.

Searle's injury marred an otherwise tremendous day for the Blues. They were 4-0 up by half-time, but outside Avenue in all departments. Their football was fast, accurate and entertaining and the tactics of the home side were made to look basic as they pumped high balls hopefully upfield.

After a scrappy opening with the ball in the air for long periods, Wycombe sparked the first sign of danger when "that man" Evans curled a drive just wide of the upright in the 15th minute, after a surging run by Perrin. A minute later, Wycombe were ahead.

Searle made the goal when he shrugged off Micky Janes'

GOOD EVANS! FOUR FOR DYLAN

NON-LEAGUE
SOCCER

EVANS ON TARGET

minutes when he powered in a rising shot towards the top corner of the net. Then at the other end Searle outjumped Paul Doherty and ran on, finding himself with only Sambridge to beat. He slammed in a shot which looked a goal all the way but Sambridge managed to parry the effort.

Terry Reardon, recently signed from Slough came on for Mick Hollfield after 71 minutes but, finding Searle fell badly after a challenge from Doherty, a stretcher and a doctor were called for, the doctor diagnosing strained ligaments in the knee.

With Wycombe now down to ten men, Avenue almost reduced the arrears. Howard sent over a corner to Doherty who powered a header onto the far upright with Maskell beaten.

Reardon, who fitted well into the centre forward role, almost scored his debut for the club when he ran through onto Perrin's pass but Sambridge raced out to gather in the nick of time. Reardon could well press Tony Brothers for a midfield place in the future. Tony tended to give away too many free kicks on Saturday and was not at his best.

Larry Pritchard, an inspiration in midfield, almost made it five in the closing stages when he turned and shot from 25 yards but Maskell saved it.

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Rob Williams brought a diving

tackle, turned and crossed into the box. The ball was deflected into the path of Evans, standing completely unmarked two yards out at the far post. The big striker had a comparatively easy task in tapping the ball home.

Within two minutes, Evans had found the target again. Some

were played accurately and the front runners must have been surprised at the amount of room they were given. Walthamstow weren't helped by Sambridge's poor goalkeeping, which often fell woefully short of half way.

In the 35th minute, however, Avenue almost pulled back to 2-

right behind it but suddenly the ball deviated, hitting a bump and bounced into the net.

Two minutes later, Evans had done it again. From a long boot Searle outjumped the defence once again and nodded the ball home to Evans who clipped the ball from ten yards. The half

excellent inter-passing ended with Larry Pritchard chipping a perfect ball to Evans, who chested down, weathered one tackle and lobbed the ball into the net as goalkeeper Tony Sambridge conceded.

Avenue continued to slam the ball high upfield in a bid to get back into the game. Occasionally they changed their tactics with some neat passing but too often they gave away possession and John Maskell spent most of his time just picking up back passes. Wanderers continued to show the home side how it should be done. Both short and long passes

1 after a strong run by Alan Carrington. From Terry Howard's corner centre half Brian Wilson headed towards the top corner only to see Maskell palm the ball over the crossbar.

Evans notched an "old fashioned" hat-trick in the 43rd minute to make it three goals on the trot. Wilson gave away a free kick on the left and Pritchard's floated pass found Evans at the far post. Dylan headed down without a great deal of power and the ball seemed destined for the goalkeeper. Sambridge was

time whistle was blown seconds later and it left Wycombe with an unassailable lead for the second half.

Walthamstow came back into the game during the second half but seldom looked dangerous against a competent Wycombe back four.

Carrington, the pick of the home players, only just missed a chance at the far post and then Bobby Wiles shot, intended as a cross, forced Maskell to tip over the crossbar.

Rob Williams brought a diving

save from Sambridge after 61

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Report from STUART EARP

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